



Portobello Primary School  
Weekly Newsletter  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020



Dear Parents & Carers

As we end this most different of half terms, I'd like to thank you for all your vital support in helping to ensure that Portobello could open safely. Your co-operation at the start and end of the school day has been greatly appreciated and we are delighted at how well the children have settled into new routines. It has been lovely to have them back and the staff and I wish them a very restful and safe half term.

**COVID-19 Procedures & Protocols during half term**

Unfortunately, the virus is still prevalent in the community and there remains the possibility that members of our school community will catch COVID-19 or display symptoms of COVID-19 during half term. I am writing to explain the procedures we will follow and the protocols we expect you to follow in any such cases.

**What happens if my child displays symptoms of COVID-19 after school on Friday or on the first Saturday or Sunday during half term?**

As I am sure you are aware, there are three main symptoms of COVID-19 and they are;

- A high temperature
- A new and persistent cough
- A loss of taste or sense of smell

If your child displays any of these three symptoms on the evening of **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October or Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October** it is really important that you;

- ☒ Keep your child and **any** siblings at home
- ☒ Book a test
- ☒ Notify school **immediately** using this dedicated e-mail

[COVIDpb@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:COVIDpb@gateshead.gov.uk)

If we are informed about any child with symptoms who is waiting to be tested, we will send an e-Schools message to all families in that child's class on Monday. This will explain that 'a child' has symptoms and that we are awaiting the results of a test. It will explain that if the test is positive the class bubble will need to isolate for **14 days** from the last contact. *This means that a class may not be able to return to school until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November and will receive Home Learning for the week beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.*

**What happens if my child tests negative for COVID-19 having had symptoms on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October or Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October?**

As soon as you get a **negative** test result for your child, we ask that you contact school immediately. Your child can return after half term, if they feel better and any temperature has gone.

As soon as we are informed of a negative result, we will inform all families in your child's class that 'the child' who was awaiting a test result has tested negative and that their own children will be able to attend school as normal after half term.





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**What happens if my child tests positive for COVID-19 having had symptoms on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October or Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October?**

As soon as you get a **positive** test result for your child, we ask that you contact school immediately. Your child will need to stay off for a further **10 days** from the result of the test. They can then return when they are better, and any temperature has gone.

As soon as we are informed of a positive result, we will inform all families in your child's class that 'the child' who was awaiting a test result has tested positive and that the children in the class who are deemed to have been in close contact with the child will need to isolate for **14 days** from the last contact. We will have conducted a robust and prompt Risk Assessment with Gateshead Council's Public Health Team to identify which children in the class bubble are deemed to have been in close contact with the child.

*This means that a class will not be able to return to school until Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November and will receive Home Learning for the week beginning Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.*

**What happens if my child displays symptoms of COVID-19 during the rest of half term?**

If your child displays any of the three symptoms from **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October** it is really important that you;

- ☒ Keep your child and **any** siblings at home
- ☒ Book a test
- ☒ Notify school **immediately** using this dedicated e-mail

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We will not need to notify any other parents as it will have been 48 hours since the last close contact. We ask that you notify us as soon you get a test result to decide when your child can return to school.

We do know these are anxious times for families and we have asked a lot of you. You have responded brilliantly, and we really appreciate your understanding and cooperation; thank you. This feels like a key moment in our combined fight against COVID-19 and your part in keeping everybody safe cannot be underestimated. Working together, we hope to minimise the transmission of this virus and protect everyone in our school, and the wider community, as much as we can.

Thank you in advance and enjoy half term.

Stay Safe.

Mrs J Humphrey  
Head Teacher

